



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service Office
2525 14th Avenue SE
Ruskin, FL 33570-5468

February 2, 2009

Major Change to Florida's Hazardous Weather Awareness Week Tornado Test this Wednesday

National Weather Service (NWS) offices in Florida WILL NOT issue a live tornado warning this Wednesday to test the Emergency Alert System (EAS TOR event code). NWS offices throughout Florida will instead issue a NOAA Weather Radio "Required Weekly Test (RWT)" EAS code to alert weather radios.

What does this mean to you?

- This test is using the same method as in years past. NWS, State, and Broadcast partners are working with the FCC to use a live tornado warning in 2010
- The RWT test begins at 10:10 AM EST
- Broadcaster and cable companies will not have to worry about the EAS system automatically interrupting their programming
- Weather radios will activate and may display a "Required Weekly Test" has been issued

NOTE: Some NOAA Weather Radios do not have an audible alarm for the weekly test, but rather just a light that illuminates when the alert is received. If you are participating in the test, and have such a radio or are not sure, you may wish to have your NOAA weather radio turned on prior to 10:10 AM on Wednesday.

More information on Hazardous Weather Awareness Week can be found at:

- <http://weather.gov/tampa>
- <http://www.floridadisaster.org/kids>

